

Message Text

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SUBJ: THIRD WORLDER'S VIEW OF MEXICO AND OF ECHEVERRIA

1. THE REPUBLIC OF EGYPT'S AMBASSADOR ADEL ABDEL HAMID FADEL CALLED TO SAY GOODBYE. FADEL TOLD ME THAT HAVING BEEN AWAY FROM EGYPT FOR SEVERAL YEARS, HE WAS NOW BEING ASSIGNED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO WORK ON THE PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. (HE HAD INSISTED ON CALLING IN ORDER TO PASS ON HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE MEXICAN SCENE WHICH HE FOUND WORRISOME. HE MADE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS: (A) HE THINKS MEXICO IS IN FOR SOME VERY TOUGH TIMES IN THE VERY NEXT FEW YEARS DUE TO THE SOCIAL IMBALANCES AND POLITICAL FRUSTRATIONS. WHETHER IT WILL SURVIVE IN ITS PRESENT STRUCTURE OR NOT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT THERE IS IN HIS OPINION A REAL DANGER OF INTERNAL CONFLICT AND BLOWUP. (B) FADEL IS CONVINCED THAT AN INCREASING NUMBER OF LOWER MIDDLE CLASS MEXICANS--GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, TECHNICIANS, PROFESSIONAL MEN, ETIOB,# ARE INSPINING TOWARD COMMUNISM, AND HE FINDS DISTURBING THIS TREND WHICH HAS IN PART BEEN ADOPTED FOR SELF-PROTECTION, AND HAS IN PART BEEN ENCOURAGED BY ATMOSPHERE ECHEVERRIA HAS CREATED. (C) HE OBSERVED THAT ECHEVERRIA'S INFLAMMATORY PRONOUNCEMENTS WHILE GIVING SOME SATISFACTION TO THE LEFT AND PERHAPS (AS HE CLAIMS) IN THE SHORT TERM

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"BUYING SOCIAL PEACE", ALSO SERVE TO INFLAME THE ATMOSPHERE

AND SHARPEN INTERNAL POLITICAL AND CLASS HATREDS. ECHEVERRIA HAS SHARPENED AND BROUGHT TO THE FORE NATIONAL PROBLEMS AND DISCUSSIONS NONE OF WHICH HE HAS A CHANCE OF SOLVING DURING THE TWO YEARS REMAINING OF HIS MANDATE. "I DO NOT ENVY HIS SUCCESSOR WHO WILL FIND ALL THESE PROBLEMS ON HIS DOORSTEP." (D) FADEL HAD SEEN ECHEVERRIA PRIVATELY THE DAY BEFORE ON A FAREWELL CALL. ECHEVERRIA HAD AT ONCE LAUNCHED INTO A HIGH-PITCHED THIRD WORLD, ANTI-IMPERIALIST, ANTI-NEO-COLONIST DIATRIBE. FADEL (WHO ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS HAS OBSERVED THAT MEXICO'S THIRD WORLDISM IS CONSIDERED BY THE TRULY NON-ALIGNED AS MORE TALK THAN ACTION) CLAIMS TO HAVE INTERRUPTED THE PRESIDENT TO TELL HIM THAT HE HAD A MISTAKEN VIEW OF TRUE THIRD WORLDISM WHICH SHOULD BE NON-ALIGNED AND IN THE MIDDLE BETWEEN BOTH THE WORLD POWER BLOCKS. "EGYPT HAD DISCOVERED AT GREAT COST THE DANGER OF FINDING ITSELF OVER-COMMITTED TO THE SOVIET BLOC, AND WAS NOW ATTEMPTING TO REESTABLISH A MORE BALANCED RELATIONSHIP THROUGH FRIENDSHIP WITH THE U.S." HE CLAIMS TO HAVE WARNED ECHEVERRIA AGAINST ALIENATING THE US UNNECESSARILY. (E) FADEL SAID THAT HE FOUND ECHEVERRIA EXTREMELY TENSE, WITH GRIMACES AND ROLLING EYEBALLS, AND SUSPECTED THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN ON THE VERGE OF A SMALL "SURMENAGE".

2. COMMENT: FADEL, BEING REPRESENTATIVE OF A NON-ALIGNED THIRD WORLD STATE, AND ALSO BEING ACTIVE AND PERSONABLE HAS CONTACT OPPORTUNITIES (INCLUDING SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEANS) AND INSIGHTS NOT ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO US EMBASSY PERSONNEL AT FIRST HAND. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN PERSONALLY FRIENDLY AND I UNDERSTAND FROM NEA COLLEAGUES IN THE DEPARTMENT THAT HE WAS HELPFUL TO US INTERESTS WHEN HE WAS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN CAIRO. IN SUM, HE APPEARS TO BE MORE CENTRIST THAN LEFTIST, BUT STILL HIS OBSERVATIONS REGARDING MEXICO GIVE US AN INTERESTING OTHER POINT OF VIEW.

3. FADEL'S OBSERVATIONS RE ECHEVERRIA'S APPARENT HEALTH ARE WORTHY OF NOTE BUT SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH CAUTION. I HAVE HAD RECENT SIMILAR REPORTS FROM PRESUMABLY UNBIASED SOURCES THAT ECHEVERRIA SEEMED "DISORIENTED", UNABLE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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CONCENTRATE ON THE SUBJECT OF CONVERSATION, OVERTENSE, ETC. ON THE OTHER HAND OTHER RECENT VISITORS HAVE FOUND HIM CORDIAL, AND HIS USUAL SELF. I SAW HIM TWO WEEKS AGO AT A CEREMONY AND HE DID SEEM TO HAVE LOST WEIGHT, HIS FACE WAS RATHER HAGGARD AND HIS APPEARANCE AT THE HEAD TABLE WAS ONE OF TENSENESS, STARING FIXEDLY INTO SPACE AND OCCASIONALLY GRIMACING. HIS SPEECH ON THAT OCCASION INCLUDED THE USUAL EMOTIONAL DIATRIBE AGAINST IMPER-

IALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM, BUT IN THE SUBSEQUENT
PERIOD WHICH FOLLOWED THE CEREMONY HE WAS RELAXED,
PLEASANT, CORDIAL, INSISTED THAT HIS PARTICULAR IMPELHA
IALIST AGENT BE PHOTOGRAPHED WITH HIM, ETC. WE MUST
RECOGNIZE THAT HE DOES WORK AT CONSTANT AND HIGH-PITCHED
PACE AND THIS PERHAPS OCCASIONALLY AND MOMENTARILY
AFFECTS HIS STABILITY. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE NEITHER
DRINKS OR SMOKES AND I UNDERSTAND HE RELAXES THROUGH
YOGA EXERCISES WHICH MAY CONCEIVABLY EXPLAINING THE ROLLING
EYEBALLS AND THE STARING.
JOVA

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